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New Mexico Labor Market Review

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EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
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HIGHLIGHTS

According to preliminary estimates, New Mexico ended 1986 with an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent. New Mexico's jobless rate edged upward during the first half of 1986 as sizeable layoffs occurred in the mining industry, particularly in oil & gas. However, since July the State's unemployment rate has remained relatively static, varying only within the narrow range of 9.0 to 9.3 percent. Largely as a result of the deterioration in the mining industry along with weakness in construction and communications & utilities, 6,100 more New Mexicans were unemployed this December than at the end of 1985. The U.S. unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 6.3 percent in December, down from both 6.6 percent in November and 6.7 percent one year ago.

New Mexico industry employment estimates, based largely on a monthly sampling of employer payrolls, indicated contrasting changes among several sectors in December. Rather strong seasonal gains occurred during the month in both trade and services. Trade employment grew by 2,500 over the mo.th as retailers staffed up for the holiday buying season. The services industry also added a significant number of workers during December, mainly in amusements and lodging as the winter ski season got underway.

Contrasting with these gains, however, were losses in other industries in December. Employment in the mining industry suffered further damage during the month with layoffs by several major employers. Lundberg Industries closed its potash mine near Carlsbad for at least two months, resulting in the layoff of about 400 workers. Kaiser Coal Corporation furloughed 190 miners at the Cimarron mine near Raton. Molycorp terminated the final 130 miners at its Questa molybdenum mine, suspending all operations at the facility which once employed 900 workers. Employment losses also occurred during December in construction and utilities, both continuations of longer term trends in those industries.

DECEMBER SUMMARY

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985
Civilian Labor Force	676,200	677,700	652,600	-1,500	+23,600
Employment	613,400	615,200	595,900	-1,800	+17,500
Unemployment	62,800	62,500	56,700	+ 300	+6,100
Rate	9.3%	9.2%	8.7%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM DEC 1986	REVISED NOV 1986	REVISED DEC 1985	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	528,400	527,100	527,100	1,300	1,300
MINING	14,000	14,600	20,000	-600	-6,000
Metal Mining	2,000	2,100	2,900	-100	-900
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	3,000	3,600	3,500	-600	-500
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,000	8,900	13,600	100	-4,600
CONSTRUCTION	34,900	36,300	35,600	-1,400	-700
MANUFACTURING	37,800	37,900	37,500	-100	300
DURABLE GOODS	24,200	24,300	24,400	-100	-200
Lumber & Wood Products	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Machinery(except electric)	2,400	2,400	2,700	0	-300
Elec & Electronic Equip	6,800	6,800	6,500	0	300
Transportation Equipment	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	-200
Other Durable Goods	8,200	8,300	8,300	-100	-100
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,600	13,600	13,100	0	500
Food & Kindred Products	4,800	4,900	4,100	-100	700
Textile & Apparel	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	6,400	6,300	6,600	100	-200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	27,900	28,000	29,900	-100	-2,000
TRANSPORTATION	12,900	12,900	13,300	0	-400
Railroad Transportation	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Trucking & Warehousing	6,100	6,100	6,400	0	-300
Other Transportation	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,000	15,100	16,600	-100	-1,600
Communication	6,500	6,500	7,100	0	-600
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,500	8,600	9,500	-100	-1,000
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	133,000	130,500	129,700	2,500	3,300
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,800	22,800	23,100	0	-300
Durable Goods	13,700	13,600	13,600	100	100
Nondurable Goods	9,100	9,200	9,500	-100	-400
RETAIL TRADE	110,200	107,700	106,500	2,500	3,600
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,700	4,800	4,600	-100	100
General Merchandise Stores	14,700	13,900	13,300	800	1,400
Food Stores	16,500	16,300	15,800	200	700
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,100	13,100	13,000	0	100
Apparel & Accessories	6,800	6,100	7,000	700	-200
Furniture & Furnishing	4,600	4,500	4,600	100	0
Eating & Drinking Places	37,200	36,800	35,900	400	1,300
Miscellaneous Retail	12,600	12,200	12,400	400	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	26,700	26,600	25,600	100	1,100
Banking	8,100	8,100	8,100	0	0
Insurance Carriers	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,900	2,900	2,700	0	200
Real Estate	6,500	6,500	6,300	0	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	5,700	5,700	5,200	0	500
SERVICES	117,300	116,000	114,400	1,300	2,900
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	12,500	12,400	11,400	100	1,100
Personal Services	5,700	5,700	5,800	0	-100
Business Services	27,300	27,200	27,100	100	200
Health Services	27,900	27,700	27,500	200	400
Legal Services	4,100	4,100	3,800	0	300
Educational Services	4,000	3,900	4,100	100	-100
Social Services	7,700	7,700	7,200	0	500
Membership Organizations	5,300	5,400	5,800	-100	-500
Other Services	22,800	21,900	21,700	900	1,100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	136,800	137,200	134,400	-400	2,400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	28,900	28,800	28,700	100	200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	107,900	108,400	105,700	-500	2,200
State Government 2/	49,200	49,800	48,100	-600	1,100
Local Government	58,700	58,600	57,600	100	1,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

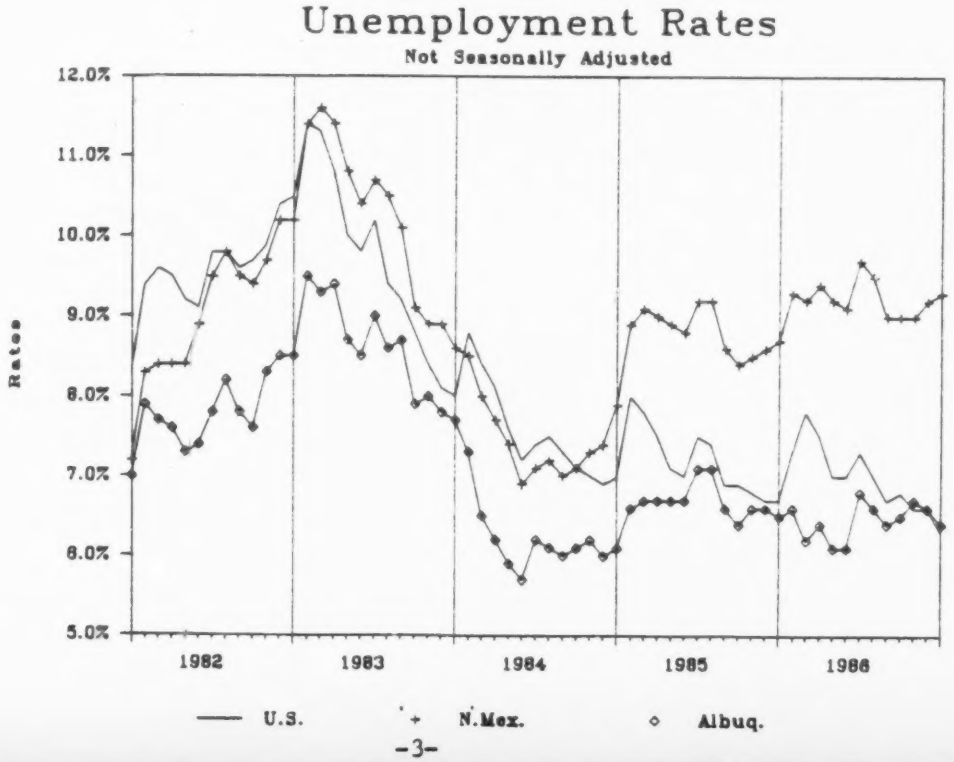
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

The unemployment rate for the Albuquerque area fell to 6.4% in December from November's level of 6.6%, according to preliminary labor force estimates. The number of unemployed individuals declined by 400 over the month, which is a normal seasonal movement. A year ago, the unemployment rate stood at 6.5%

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Albuquerque increased by 400 jobs over the month, which is also in accordance with seasonal expectations. A greater-than-expected gain of 600 services jobs was offset by a greater-than-expected loss of 900 jobs in the government sector. A large portion of the new services jobs resulted from the opening of a major new hotel, while most of the government decline occurred at the university. As expected at this time of year, retail trade added 800 jobs between November and December as merchants added staff to handle increased holiday shopping activity. Several manufacturing industries each lost a small number of jobs over the month, resulting in a drop of 100 for the manufacturing division as a whole.

Nonagricultural payroll jobs now stand 4,500 jobs higher than in December 1985, a modest gain of two percent over the year. Sizeable job increases have occurred at all levels of government as well as in general merchandise, eating & drinking places, hotels & lodging places, health services, and other services. Construction has been the big job loser over the past twelve months, and the special trades sector has borne the brunt of the decline; heavy construction actually has more workers now than one year ago. Layoffs by large firms involved in communications and electric and natural gas service caused a small over-the-year decline in transportation, communication, & public utilities. Total manufacturing employment has shown no growth at all over the last twelve months as an employment increase in electrical & electronic machinery was more than offset by job losses in the food, chemicals, and stone, clay, glass, & concrete industries.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985
Civilian Labor Force	260,100	258,300	245,800	+1,800	+14,300
Employment	243,400	241,200	229,900	+2,200	+13,500
Unemployment	16,700	17,100	15,900	- 400	+ 800
Rate	6.4%	6.6%	6.5%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM DEC 1986	REVISED OCT 1986	REVISED DEC 1985	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	229,100	228,700	224,600	400	4,500
MINING	300	200	300	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	17,800	18,000	18,400	-200	-600
MANUFACTURING	19,300	19,400	19,300	-100	0
Durable Goods	13,800	13,900	13,700	-100	100
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,300	12,300	12,400	0	-100
Transportation	6,100	6,100	5,900	0	200
Communication	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	-100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	59,900	59,100	58,700	800	1,200
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,100	14,100	14,200	0	-100
Durable Goods	9,500	9,500	9,400	0	100
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,800	0	-200
RETAIL TRADE	45,800	45,000	44,500	800	1,300
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,400	5,200	500	700
Food Stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,700	4,800	4,800	-100	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	16,400	16,400	15,700	0	700
Other Retail Trade	13,600	13,200	13,700	400	-100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	14,000	13,900	13,500	100	500
Banking	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,800	6,700	6,500	100	300
SERVICES	59,500	58,900	58,100	600	1,400
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	4,100	3,800	3,600	300	500
Personal Services	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	-100
Business Services	19,000	18,800	18,900	200	100
Health Services	13,600	13,600	13,200	0	400
Social Services	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Membership Organizations	1,600	1,600	1,700	0	-100
Other Services	15,300	15,200	14,800	100	500
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	46,000	46,900	43,900	-900	2,100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	12,800	12,800	12,200	0	600
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	33,200	34,100	31,700	-900	1,500
State Government	13,700	14,600	13,000	-900	700
Local Government	19,500	19,500	18,700	0	800

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1986	REVISED NOV 1986	REVISED DEC 1985	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	41,150	40,800	38,150	350	3,000
MINING 3/	0	0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,700	2,800	2,500	-100	200
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,200	3,000	-100	100
Durable Goods	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	0
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,500	1,500	1,350	0	150
Transportation	650	650	550	0	100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	850	850	800	0	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,600	8,450	8,250	150	350
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	850	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	7,750	7,600	7,400	150	350
General Merchandise Stores	1,100	1,000	1,050	100	50
Food Stores	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Other Retail Trade	1,550	1,500	1,450	50	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,650	1,650	1,550	0	100
SERVICES	6,100	6,000	5,500	100	600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	900	900	600	0	300
Business Services	1,000	1,000	950	0	50
Health Services	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
Social Services	300	300	350	0	-50
Other Services	2,400	2,300	2,200	100	200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17,500	17,200	16,000	300	1,500
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,800	12,500	11,300	300	1,500
State Government	7,700	7,400	6,200	300	1,500
Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1986	REVISED NOV 1986	REVISED DEC 1985	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1986	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	51,100	51,050	51,050	50	50
MINING	100	100	150	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	3,300	3,500	3,400	-200	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,500	1,500	1,650	0	-150
Durable Goods	900	900	950	0	-50
Nondurable Goods	600	600	700	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,150	1,100	1,150	50	0
Transportation	450	400	400	50	50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	700	700	750	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,450	10,200	10,050	250	400
WHOLESALE TRADE	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,750	9,500	9,350	250	400
General Merchandise Stores	1,100	1,000	1,150	100	-50
Food Stores	1,550	1,500	1,300	50	250
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	900	0	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	3,600	3,600	3,300	0	300
Other Retail Trade	2,650	2,550	2,700	100	-50
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,050	2,100	2,000	-50	50
SERVICES	12,750	12,650	12,250	100	500
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,800	1,900	1,400	-100	400
Business Services	2,900	2,900	3,000	0	-100
Health Services	2,700	2,600	2,600	100	100
Social Services	550	550	550	0	0
Other Services	4,800	4,700	4,700	100	100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	19,800	19,900	20,400	-100	-600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	18,400	18,500	18,900	-100	-500
State Government 4/	15,000	15,100	15,200	-100	-200
Local Government	3,400	3,400	3,700	0	-300

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ The employment for the Las Cruces MSA is rounded to fifty. Because employment in this industry is below 25 it appears as zero.
4/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	DEC 1986	NOV 1986	DEC 1985	DEC 1986	NOV 1986	DEC 1985	DEC 1986	NOV 1986	DEC 1985
MINING	$498.13	$502.45	$539.24	40.4	40.1	44.2	12.33	12.53	12.20
CONSTRUCTION	$395.93	$447.86	$386.22	34.7	36.5	34.3	11.41	12.27	11.26
MANUFACTURING	$346.58	$346.42	$363.66	40.3	39.5	41.8	8.60	8.77	8.70
Durable Goods	$344.02	$352.22	$385.00	41.2	40.3	43.9	8.35	8.74	8.77
Nondurable Goods	$353.19	$334.15	$316.68	38.6	37.8	37.3	9.15	8.84	8.49
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$524.83	$567.51	$481.53	42.6	42.1	42.5	12.32	13.48	11.33
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$211.20	$211.55	$218.78	32.0	32.2	32.8	6.60	6.57	6.67
Wholesale Trade	$386.92	$367.60	$363.49	40.6	39.4	41.4	9.53	9.33	8.78
Retail Trade	$178.75	$181.72	$191.26	30.4	30.8	31.2	5.88	5.90	6.13
BANKING	$229.08	$239.95	$229.86	38.5	40.6	39.7	5.95	5.91	5.79
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	**DEC 1986**	**NOV 1986**	**DEC 1985**	**DEC 1986**	**NOV 1986**	**DEC 1985**	**DEC 1986**	**NOV 1986**	**DEC 1985**
MANUFACTURING	$363.31	$364.00	$378.88	40.1	40.0	43.7	9.06	9.10	8.67
Durable Goods	$369.95	$376.18	$415.67	40.3	40.8	46.6	9.18	9.22	8.92
Nondurable Goods	$329.24	$324.51	$282.24	37.8	37.3	36.0	8.71	8.70	7.84

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985	Percent Change Nov.'86-Dec.'86	Percent Change Dec.'85-Dec.'86
CPI-U	331.1	330.8	327.4	+0.1%	+1.1%
CPI-W	325.7	325.4	323.4	+0.1%	+0.7%

Index Base Year 1967 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

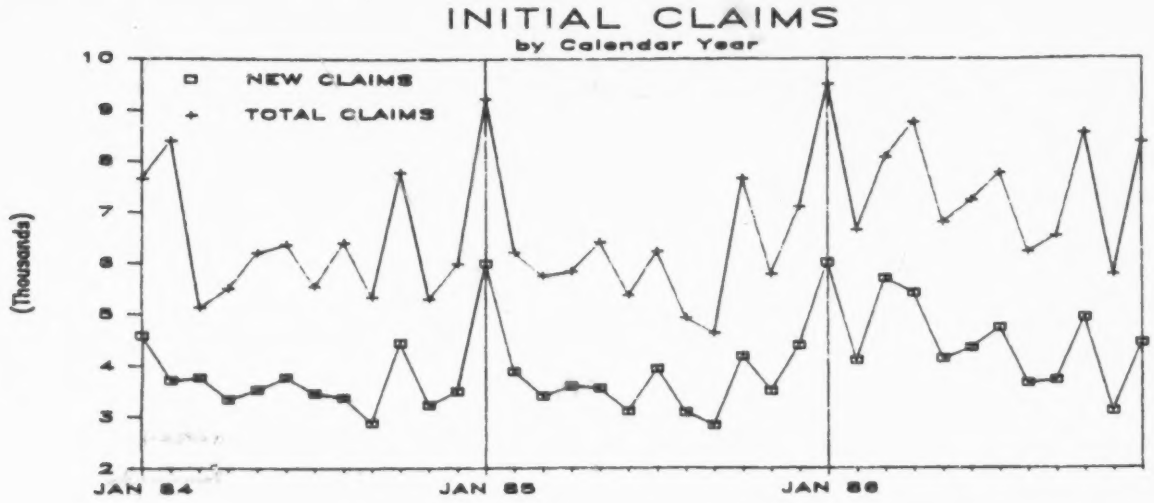
NEW PUBLICATION

Current Occupational Supply/Demand Summary - (published in January 1987). This report provides information on the current demand for and availability of workers in various job skills in New mexico. It is divided into two sections--Areas, which contains data on occupational needs and surpluses in specific localities, and Statewide, which presents data for the state as a whole. The information is based on employment surveys, current and long-term job trend forecasts, and job orders listed and persons registering with the State Employment Service. While not comprehensive nor quantitative, it should offer some general indication of current job needs.

Copies of this publication can be obtained at no charge by writing to ER & A Bureau 6097, Employment Security Dept., P.O. Box 1928, Albuquerque, NM 87103, or by calling (505) 841-8639.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER 1986

The number of workers filing a new claim for unemployment rose 42 percent in December, from levels experienced during the prior month, and by 1 percent from totals reported for December 1985. Statewide, almost all counties noted a rise in new unemployment with Bernalillo, Colfax, Dona Ana, Eddy, Sandoval, San Juan, and San Miguel counties reporting the greatest increase. Part of this rise reflects normal seasonal declines in the covered labor force as firms temporarily furlough workers in the Mining and Manufacturing industries.



The insured unemployment rate for the week ending December 13, 1986 was 3.39 percent, increasing slightly from the 3.31 percent experienced during November 1986, but significantly higher than the 2.83 percent reported for December 1985. During the month, there were 16,100 workers certifying for unemployment, up 2.5 percent from the November total of 15,700 and higher by 23.5 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Statewide, all counties reported higher insured unemployment from levels experienced during the prior month.

Benefit payments made under the State UI program totalled $7.9 million during December, reflecting an increase of 36.2 percent from the November 1986 total of $5.8 million, and higher by 43.6 percent from the December 1985 total of $5.5 million. During the calendar year 1986, ESD paid $86.7 million in benefit payments, an increase of 37 percent from the $63.3 million paid during the same period a year ago. The average weekly benefit amount ended 1986 at $121.41, up from $113.09 reported for the twelve months ending December 1985.

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

STATEWIDE: New Mexico was one of six states to receive a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor to assist dislocated workers in the mining industry. New Mexico received $800,000 for training, job search, and relocation assistance for laid off oil & gas workers and molybdenum miners in Eddy, Chaves, Lea, San Juan, and Taos counties. The grant is authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and will be administered by the Training Division of the New Mexico Employment Security Department. Officials of Public Service Company of New Mexico recently disclosed that the company laid off approximately 450 workers in 1986. Most of the layoffs were in the Albuquerque area, where most of PNM's management positions are located. PNM officials said that the utility currently is in a surplus capacity situation with more electricity than is needed. The utility is looking at ways to enhance economic development in New Mexico.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA: St. Joseph Hospital has laid off 50 workers and put 17 more on part-time status as a result of declining admissions. BDM Management Services Company has received a four-year, $26 million contract to operate and maintain the Air Force Weapons Laboratory's electromagnetic pulse test facilities. Construction has begun on a $15 million retail and professional-medical complex at Wyoming and San Antonio, N.E.; developed by Suncor Enterprises, Inc., the project will include the 60,000-square-foot Pheasant Hills Shopping Center and the 80,000-square-foot Wyoming Office Plaza. Three large commercial projects were recently announced for the area near Albuquerque International Airport: Albuquerque International Business Park is a 131-acre, $20 million complex to be jointly developed by The Moore Organization and Crossroads Developers, Inc. near I-25 and Randolph Road; Cavan Sunport Center is a 41-acre, $12.6 million project to be built at Yale and Gibson, S.E. which will include numerous offices and at least one lodging facility; and Craddock Development will construct a 100-acre complex including two new office buildings and a warehouse near Yale and Renard, S.E.. The first two tenants have opened for business in the new Loretta Plaza shopping center near Louisiana and Menaul, N.E.: Chili's is a new, 6,000-square-foot, 200-seat restaurant employing 80 people; and Kurt's Camera Corral, relocated from Coronado Center, employs about six people in its 2,000-square-foot store. Geronimo's Cadillac, a new 329-seat restaurant occupying the site of the former Garcia's of Scottsdale on Uptown Boulevard, has opened for business in the remodeled facility and employs about 125 people. A new 137-room ClubHouse Inns hotel is now under construction at Menaul and I-25 in Albuquerque, and construction is expected to begin soon on a new 60-unit Super 8 Motel near I-25 in Belen; both facilities are expected to be completed by this summer. Bellamah Community Development has purchased 3,000 acres of land surrounding Paradise Hills and is planning to build nearly 2,200 single-family homes over the next several years; construction of the first 340 homes is expected to be underway by this spring. Smith's Food and Drug in Valencia has been remodeled and enlarged to a size of 50,000 square feet, making it the second largest Smith's store in the state; the store now employs 105 people. The City of Moriarty has received a $250,000 loan from the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund to construct a 22,000-square-foot building at the new Moriarty Industrial Park; the City is currently negotiating with prospective tenants. The Sandoval County Commission has awarded a contract for construction of a 22,000-square-foot, $1.9 million Sandoval County Justice Complex to be built south of the junction of NM44 and NM528.

ALAMOGORDO / RUIDOSO AREA: U.S. Army officials have indicated that the Orogrande site south of Alamogordo will be selected for the proposed Strategic Defense Command laser test facility. The Army was considering three White Sands

Missile Range sites - at Orogrande, one north of the NASA facility near Las Cruces, and one near Socorro. The project is expected to employ approximately 2,000 construction workers, and 250 technical and scientific personnel will operate the facility. Construction is expected to begin this year, and laser testing could start by 1990.

CARLSBAD / ARTESIA AREA: Navajo Refining Company hired about 40 workers for one week in December for its annual turnaround project, a time when repairs are made to the refinery. Navajo also recently advertised for bids on an estimated $2 million project which will include about four miles of new pipeline near the refinery. Officials for Westinghouse Corporation, the major contractor for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), said about $9.9 million in subcontracts was awarded to businesses within an 80-mile radius of the project near Carlsbad. Companies statewide have received more than $20 million in contracts from Westinghouse. WIPP next year will begin receiving its first shipments of low-level radioactive wastes, which will be buried in salt beds. The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking $24 million in new construction funds this year for the Brantley Dam project on the Pecos River twelve miles north of Carlsbad. The earthfilled dam project, which was begun in early 1985, is expected to be completed in late 1988 or early 1989. Lundberg Industries did not resume operations at its potash mine as planned in mid-January. Lundberg laid off approximately 400 workers in late November for what was expected to be an eight-week closure to reduce inventories; however, officials now indicate that the resumption of operations will be delayed until mid-February. International Minerals and Chemical Corp., which also temporarily shut down its potash operations in mid-December, recommenced operations as planned in early January.

ESPANOLA AREA: Santa Clara Pueblo is planning to construct a 150-unit mobile home park on Pueblo land west of Espanola; the City of Espanola has agreed to extend certain streets and water and sewer lines to serve the area. Construction of a new $3 million trout hatchery in Parkview should begin soon and take about one year to complete. A new Allsup's store has opened in Espanola, employing seven people.

FARMINGTON AREA: A new company, U.S. Enertek, Inc., has been formed by combining parts of present companies Weatherford U.S., Inc. and American Tank and Steel. U.S. Enertek will be based in Farmington and will manufacture oil field production equipment and automatic production control systems and also do custom metal fabrication work. King's Table, a 300-seat buffet restaurant that will employ about 50 workers, plans to open soon in the Animas Valley Mall.

HOBBS / LOVINGTON AREA: A group of Lea County and New York businessmen announced in early January that they have reached agreement to purchase the idle Southern Union oil refinery near Lovington. Plans call for operations at the refinery to resume within two months. The two investor groups, AMEX Management Co. and East Coast Investors Ltd., also want to spend $70 million expanding the refinery for ethanol production over the next two years. Whether the expansion plans are realized depends upon tax incentives from the State of New Mexico, according to company officials. The refinery is expected to initially employ about 75 people, and up to 170 construction workers could be involved in the expansion of the facility. Hobbs' newest shopping center, the $2 million Dal Paso Center, is ready to accept businesses, according to its developer, La Fonda Construction. The center has room for 36 stores, plus an additional business in front of the center. Phillips Petroleum has purchased eleven natural gas processing plants from El Paso Natural Gas Company, including three plants in southeastern New Mexico. Phillips officials did not disclose what affect the sale would have on employment at the gas plants.

LAS CRUCES AREA: Foamex Products, Inc. is expected to begin operations its new $6

million polyurethane products manufacturing plant in Santa Teresa in early February. Foamex, a subsidiary of General Felt Industries, should employ approximately 50 workers initially at the facility. Products from the Foamex plant will be used in the automobile, furniture, and carpet industries. Sunland Park Racetrack is planning a $500,000 renovation project which will improve the track's clubhouse and grandstands. Work on the renovation, to be conducted on the off racing days for the track, should be completed by this June. Work has started on the $2.5 million Dona Ana Specialty Four Mill in Rincon, north of Las Cruces. The new mill is expected to be in operation by this August, at which time six to ten workers will be hired to run the facility. Steelcon Building Company of El Paso is the general contractor for the new mill.

LAS VEGAS AREA: Budget adjustments are forcing personnel cutbacks of from nine to 20 percent in various departments of the San Miguel County government. A new personal computer sales and service store, Computer Tutor, has opened in Las Vegas.

LOS ALAMOS AREA: Los Alamos National Laboratory has announced a hiring freeze which will be in effect until a thorough study of the budget is completed. Architectural design work is underway for a new 90,000-square-foot, $25 million computing center for Los Alamos National Laboratory; construction should begin this summer and take about two years to complete. Los Alamos National Laboratory has received a $14 million contract for a new research facility to be used to study the effects of high-speed projectiles on their targets.

RATON AREA: The 195 workers furloughed by Kaiser Coal Company in late November are now back on the job. A group of Oklahoma and New Mexico investors have reached an agreement to buy La Mesa Park racetrack; the current owner had indicated he would not open the track for the 1987 racing season.

ROSWELL AREA: Samons, a home improvement store chain based in Albuquerque, opened its eighth New Mexico store in the Monterey Shopping Center in Roswell.

SANTA FE AREA: The 85-room St. Francis Hotel, formerly known as the DeVargas Hotel, has opened near the plaza in Santa Fe following extensive remodeling. Sears, Roebuck is expected to vacate its downtown store and move into a new 72,000-square-foot, $2.8 million store in Villa Linda Mall by this fall, according to a mall official. Construction work on the new $18 million high school is about 30 percent complete and two months ahead of schedule, with completion now expected by early 1988. Poor skiing conditions in California are apparently responsible for an especially busy season so far at the Santa Fe Ski Basin which has had favorable impacts on area ski equipment shops, restaurants, and lodging facilities. The City of Santa Fe City Council has approved the purchase of 28 acres of land from the New Mexico National Guard for $1.7 million. The guard will use that money to purchase 320 acres near the New Mexico State Penitentiary for its new $4.2 million home complex, which will include an 80,000-square-foot armory and other buildings; construction should begin within about a year.

SILVER CITY AREA: Phelps Dodge Corporation's copper smelter in Douglas, Arizona closed in mid-January. Phelps Dodge officials said that some of the 350 workers from the Douglas plant could be transferred to the company's smelter in Hurley, New Mexico which Phelps Dodge recently acquired from Kennecott Corporation. El Paso Electric Company has proposed constructing a 345 kilovolt line from Tucson Electric's Springerville, Arizona generating station to the El Paso Electric Luna Substation north of Deming. Utility officials said work could begin on the project within one year, and construction would require a work force of between 65 and 120 persons

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NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1986				REVISED NOVEMBER 1986				REVISED DECEMBER 1985			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	676,103	613,350	62,753	9.3%	677,692	615,195	62,497	9.2%	652,615	595,941	56,674	8.7%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	260,132	243,441	16,691	6.4%	258,266	241,165	17,101	6.6%	245,821	229,936	15,885	6.5%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	56,193	52,489	3,704	6.6%	58,319	54,379	3,940	6.8%	51,379	47,541	3,838	7.5%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	62,049	58,397	3,652	5.9%	62,197	58,639	3,558	5.7%	60,504	57,408	3,096	5.1%
Catron	1,084	873	211	19.5%	1,110	926	184	16.6%	938	749	189	20.1%
Chaves	23,155	21,052	2,103	9.1%	23,316	21,141	2,175	9.3%	22,920	21,246	1,674	7.3%
Cibola	8,548	7,077	1,471	17.2%	8,319	6,925	1,394	16.8%	8,635	6,754	1,881	21.8%
Colfax	6,772	5,495	1,277	18.9%	6,686	5,743	943	14.1%	6,781	5,843	938	13.8%
Curry	17,735	16,278	1,457	8.2%	17,971	16,507	1,464	8.1%	16,319	15,092	1,227	7.5%
De Baca	877	774	103	11.7%	949	842	107	11.3%	921	794	127	13.8%
Eddy	22,127	18,696	3,431	15.5%	22,086	19,247	2,839	12.9%	22,049	19,025	3,024	13.7%
Grant	9,874	8,814	1,060	10.7%	9,974	8,894	1,080	10.8%	9,689	8,520	1,169	12.1%
Guadalupe	1,610	1,324	286	17.8%	1,653	1,393	260	15.7%	1,685	1,402	283	16.8%
Harding	485	424	61	12.6%	541	480	61	11.3%	488	443	45	9.2%
Hidalgo	2,377	2,217	160	6.7%	2,338	2,201	137	5.9%	2,290	2,109	181	7.9%
Lea	24,446	21,259	3,187	13.0%	24,925	21,406	3,519	14.1%	26,005	24,569	1,436	5.5%
Lincoln	7,113	6,461	652	9.2%	7,153	6,528	625	8.7%	7,324	6,805	519	7.1%
Luna	5,827	4,919	908	15.6%	5,911	4,964	947	16.0%	5,479	4,589	890	16.2%
McKinley	16,822	14,607	2,215	13.2%	17,124	14,707	2,417	14.1%	17,156	14,774	2,382	13.9%
Mora	1,286	804	482	37.5%	1,358	885	473	34.8%	1,541	1,028	513	33.3%
Otero	18,002	16,575	1,427	7.9%	17,848	16,440	1,408	7.9%	16,992	15,482	1,510	8.9%
Quay	4,355	3,952	403	9.3%	4,476	4,080	396	8.8%	4,374	3,933	441	10.1%
Rio Arriba	12,864	10,183	2,681	20.8%	12,951	10,391	2,560	19.8%	13,768	11,275	2,493	18.1%
Roosevelt	7,692	7,238	454	5.9%	7,912	7,479	433	5.5%	7,345	6,961	384	5.2%
Sandoval	22,096	20,051	2,045	9.3%	22,405	20,306	2,099	9.4%	21,546	19,642	1,904	8.8%
San Juan	34,478	28,907	5,571	16.2%	34,261	28,825	5,436	15.9%	34,162	29,805	4,357	12.8%
San Miguel	10,019	8,680	1,339	13.4%	10,088	8,821	1,267	12.6%	9,919	8,629	1,290	13.0%
Sierra	2,492	2,259	233	9.3%	2,522	2,284	238	9.4%	2,208	1,984	224	10.1%
Socorro	5,774	5,237	537	9.3%	5,829	5,241	588	10.1%	5,417	4,912	505	9.3%
Taos	10,158	7,323	2,835	27.9%	9,778	7,040	2,738	28.0%	11,101	8,697	2,404	21.7%
Torrance	3,140	2,733	407	13.0%	3,184	2,799	385	12.1%	3,246	2,862	384	11.8%
Union	1,981	1,817	164	8.3%	2,111	1,933	178	8.4%	1,966	1,851	115	5.8%
Valencia	14,540	12,994	1,546	10.6%	14,131	12,584	1,547	10.9%	12,647	11,281	1,366	10.8%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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over 12 to 18 months. The State Environmental Improvement Division has approved a groundwater discharge plan for a small copper-zinc-silver mine at Pinos Altos, near Silver City. Boliden Minerals submitted the plan for a 16,000 ton-per-year mining operation; however, the firm has not announced any startup date for the mine.

SOCORRO / T or C AREA: The T or C City Commissioners approved a preliminary plan by Southwest Engineering of Las Cruces to develop a 43 acre tract of land near the Veterans Center into an industrial park. The Socorro City Council has approved a concrete company, American Redi Mix, as a new tenant in the city's industrial park.

TAOS AREA: A $2.8 million contract has been awarded to Burnett Construction Company of Durango, Colorado for the paving of 6.1 miles of NM196 from NM3 to the Rio Costilla Ski Area. Carson National Forest does not expect to have any vacancies for field positions for the 1987 summer season and is not accepting any applications for such positions. McKinsey Air, Inc. has begun flying charter air service between Taos and Albuquerque on a demand basis.